New health schemes for poor

2480. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new health schems have been introduced for the benefit of the poorer sections of the society during the last four years particularly for Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In order to improve the existing healthcare delivery system and make health care accessible and affordable to the poorer and vulnerable sections of society particularly in the rural areas, a National Rural Health Mission was launched in April, 2005. This mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population in all the States of the country including Tamil Nadu, with special focus on 18 States with poor health indicators and weak health infrastructure. Under the strategy of NRHM, the gaps in the existing scenario of rural heath care is to be addressed through 2.5 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) to assist the Anganwadi Worker and ANM at village level to make the increased health services accessible to the rural people of the country. it is also proposed to upgrade CHCs to the level of India Public Health Standards (IPHS). NRHM has been launched for a period of 7 years (2005-2012) i.e. for two years of Tenth Plan and full Eleventh Plan.

A World Bank assisted Integrated Disease Surveillance Project was launched in the year 2004-05 to strengthen capacity of all the States/UTs for Disease Surveillance. The project aims to strengthen public health laboratory services, train personnel and use information technology in surveillance. Early detection and timely response to outbreaks is expected to reduce spread of diseases in the Population including poorer sections of the society.

Under the National AIDS Control Programme, the scheme to provide free ART to poor patients was initiated by the Government from April 2004. The scheme is being implemented in 52 health institutions of the country in 19 States and a total of 23,784 patients are getting free ARVs.

(c) Does not arise.